



1.2A: The World War II Alliance Between the Soviet Union and the United States

What do you see here? How would you describe the men's expressions? Which armies might the different soldiers represent? Why might American and Russian soldiers be shaking hands?

- ☐ **In this transparency** we see American and Soviet soldiers gripping hands as the two armies met at the end of World War II on the wrecked bridge at Torgau, Germany, in April 1945.
- The World War II alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. First, tensions were high between the two countries because of ideological differences. These differences made the Soviet Union and the United States suspicious of each other, despite their alliance. Second, the Soviet Union and the United States had competing political objectives for postwar Eastern Europe. The United States was a proponent of democracy and wanted self-determination for the countries of Eastern Europe. Stalin, however, wanted to create a buffer in Eastern Europe—particularly in Poland—to protect the Soviet Union from German aggression. Stalin argued: “Throughout history Poland has always been a corridor for assaults on Russia.” He used this argument to assume communist control over Poland and other Eastern European countries such as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania. As a result, the alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States during World War II quickly disintegrated after the war ended in 1945.



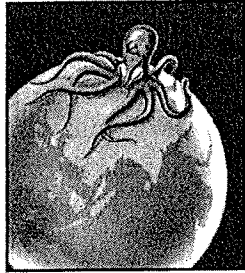
1.2B: Economic and Military Alliances in Europe After World War II

What do you see in this poster? What color is the wire cutter? What symbols do you see? What might the barbed wire represent? What do you think is the main point of the poster? How might the Soviets respond to it?

- ☐ In this transparency we see a Dutch poster of red, white, and blue wire cutters labeled “Marshall Plan” snipping a piece of barbed wire, which represents communism in Europe.

Activity 1.2

- The economic and military alliances in Europe after World War II contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. First, the economic alliances formed under the Marshall Plan and the Molotov Plan hardened the divisions between the East and West in Europe and increased tensions between the two superpowers. To the United States, economic aid to Europe was essential to keep communism from spreading beyond the Soviet Union’s borders. To the Soviet Union, the economic alliances formed under the Marshall Plan only served American interests and undermined Soviet power in Europe. Second, the military alliances formed by NATO and the Warsaw Pact introduced the possibility of armed conflict and eventually led to the establishment of defensive armies throughout Europe. In 1951 the United States committed American troops to NATO forces stationed in Europe. Worried that this would escalate hostilities with the Soviet Union, U.S. senator Robert Taft pointed out, “The formation of [a NATO] army...is bound to have an aggressive aspect to the [Soviets].” The introduction of peacetime armed troops in Europe solidified the increasingly antagonistic relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States



1.2C: Communist Rebellions in Greece and Turkey

What do you see here? What symbols do you see? What do you think the octopus represents? What is it doing? What do you think the artist is trying to say about the Soviet Union? How might a Soviet official respond to this cartoon?

- ☐ **In this transparency** we see a political cartoon showing an octopus, representing the Soviet Union, stretching its tentacles over the globe.
- The Communist rebellions in Greece and Turkey contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. First, the rebellions inspired the Truman Doctrine, which justified U.S. intervention in regional conflicts in the name of containing Soviet communism. The Truman Doctrine later served as the framework for American foreign policy in the nuclear age. Second, the rebellions in Greece and Turkey inspired one of the first indirect confrontations between the Soviet Union and the United States, a hallmark of the Cold War. Any tensions between communist and non-communist nations were considered Cold War conflicts because they reflected the ideological battle between the two superpowers.



1.2D: The Development of Nuclear Weapons

What do you see here? What symbols do you see? What does the house on top of the bomb represent? According to this cartoon, what are the two options for the world? What message do you think the artist wanted to convey?

- ☐ In this transparency we see an American political cartoon showing an atomic bomb teetering on the edge of a precipice between world destruction and world control.
- The development of nuclear weapons contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. First, the Soviet Union's development of nuclear weapons positioned them to compete with the United States as a military superpower. With the power of nuclear weapons behind them, the Soviets could more successfully maintain control over the countries in their sphere of influence. Second, the Soviet Union and the United States each amassed more and more nuclear weaponry to keep the other "in check," fueling an arms race that exponentially increased fear and suspicion on both sides. Both countries believed the accrual of nuclear weapons was a crucial deterrent to enemy aggression. Third, the Soviet Union and the United States knew that a direct conflict using nuclear weapons would cause untold devastation. Therefore, both countries chose to fight each other indirectly by providing economic and military aid to rivaling nations. In this way, the Soviet Union and the United States avoided direct conflict while simultaneously escalating hostilities.



1.2E: The Berlin Crisis

What do you see here? Whose planes are these? What might the men be unloading? Why might Americans be unloading food in West Berlin? How might the Soviets respond to this action?

- ❑ **In this transparency** we see American planes and crews unloading flour from one of the first flights to West Berlin during the Berlin blockade.
- The Berlin crisis contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. First, Berlin was located in Soviet-controlled German territory, and the Soviets felt that they were entitled to full control over the German capital. As a result, the Soviet Union resented the western countries and was an unwilling participant in the Allied Control Council. Second, the western countries' exclusion of the Soviet Union in matters of German national import and the subsequent Berlin blockade deepened the adversarial

Activity 1.2

relationship between the Soviet Union and the West. The Soviets felt that the western powers had no interest in uniting Germany and therefore had no legal right to participate in the administration of Berlin. However, the Soviets' blockade of Berlin shocked many in the international community, who believed the Soviets were ruthlessly starving millions of German men, women, and children. Meanwhile, the American supply airlifts into Berlin were a clear signal that the United States would take action against Soviet aggression. Finally, the Berlin Wall reinforced the division between East and West, both literally and symbolically. The wall became a lasting testament to the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States.



1.2F: The Korean War

What do you see here? Where do you think these American soldiers are? Why might they be fighting in Korea? What other countries are near Korea? How might military conflict with Communist China threaten the United States?

- ☐ **In this transparency** we see American soldiers in Korea marching near a bomb explosion.
- The Korean War contributed to the development of the Cold War for several reasons. The war confirmed the growing American belief that the spread of communism in Asia was now a serious threat. Up to this time, the conflicts between the Soviet Union and the West had centered primarily around Europe. After the Chinese Communist Revolution and the Korean War, the Cold War became more global. Consequently, the Soviet Union and the United States began to compete for influence around the world. Eventually, the Soviet Union and the United States' drive for international control led them to intervene in regional conflicts throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. As the superpowers' competition spread around the globe, political scientists began to describe the world as bipolar, with almost every country belonging to either the Soviet or American sphere of influence.